

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously amended) A software agent executable on a local computer for retrieving a changing target content from a target source on a remote computer, comprising:

means for retrieving data from a target source on a remote computer,
program instructions for identifying a predefined structural location of target content located within a version of data retrieved from the target source, said predefined structural location based upon a structural location of target content identified in a previous version of data retrieved from the target source; and

an agent engine for executing said program instructions to retrieve potentially changing target content from the target source.

2-6. (canceled)

7. (previously amended) A software agent according to claim 1, wherein the data is a web page structure and the program instructions further comprises algorithms for parsing the data retrieved from the target source structure to find the target content.

8. (previously amended) A locally executing software application for retrieving and arranging target content from a target source on a remote computer on to a local computer, the software application comprising:

at least one agent having information describing a predefined structural location of a target content within a target document and an agent engine for executing program instructions using the agent information to download a dynamically changing target document from a remote computer, locate a changing target content within the target document, extract the located target content, reformat the extracted target content into a common format, and store the target content on the local computer; and

at least one publication template for arranging the retrieved, stored target content for display on the local computer.

9. (previously amended) The software application according to claim 8, further comprising an application display window capable of displaying the target content as arranged by the publication template.
10. (previously amended) The software application according to claim 9, wherein the application display window is a web browser.
11. (previously amended) The software application according to claim 8, wherein the at least one agent comprises a plurality of agents and the at least one publication template comprises a plurality of publication templates.
12. (original) The software application according to claim 8, further comprising scheduling means for executing the at least one agent on a periodic schedule.
13. (previously amended) The software application according to claim 8, wherein the at least one agent includes parsing means for determining the location of target content within the structure of the target document.
14. (previously amended) The software application according to claim 13, wherein the parsing means comprises agent information having target content source structure information and algorithms for parsing the structure of the target document to find a target document structure containing the target content described by the agent information.
15. (previously amended) A method for retrieving a target content from a remote computer, the method comprising:
 - providing a software application having at least one autonomous agent, each autonomous software agent comprising routines, an agent information describing the structural location of a target content within a target document, and an agent engine to execute the routines and apply agent information to download a dynamically changing target document from a remote computer, locate a changing target content within the target document, extract the located target

content, reformat the extracted target content into a common format, and store the content on a local computer;

executing the at least one agent on the local computer to download the target document from the remote computer and locate and extract the target content from the target document;
and

storing the retrieved target content on the local computer.

16. (original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising displaying the stored target content on the local computer.

17. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein displaying the stored target content comprises providing a publication template having formatting, selecting stored content to display using the publication template formatting, and arranging the stored content according to the publication template formatting in an application window on the local computer.

18. (previously amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein executing the agent comprises running the at least one agent, generating with the at least one agent an instruction to retrieve at least one document identified by the target source URL to the local computer, finding the target content within the retrieved at least one document and copying the target content.

19. (original) The method according to claim 18, wherein storing the retrieved target content further comprises saving the copied target content as an agent result file on the local computer.

20. (original) The method according to claim 19, further comprising displaying the stored target content on the local computer.

21. (original) The method according to claim 20, wherein displaying the stored target content comprises providing a publication template having formatting, selecting at least one agent result file to display using the publication template formatting, and arranging the stored

content in the agent result file according to the publication template formatting in an application window on the local computer.

22. (original) The method according to claim 21, wherein the at least one agent comprises a plurality of agents, selecting at least one agent result file comprises selecting a plurality of agent result files, the stored content in each of the plurality of agent result files being arranged according to the publication template formatting in the application window.

23. (previously amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein finding the target content comprises parsing the target document, and locating a structure within the parsed target document structure matching the structural location information in the agent information.

24. (previously amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein locating the structure comprises applying a plurality of algorithms to the parsed target document structure.

25-30. (cancelled)

31. (previously added) A method for downloading a dynamically changing target document from a remote computer to a local computer and locating and extracting a target content from the target document, the method comprising the steps of:

- downloading a target document from a remote computer, and further characterized by the steps of

- identifying a target content within the target document;

- parsing the target document to determine a structural location of the target content in the target document;

- storing a description of the structural location of the target content as agent information;

- downloading a subsequent version of the target document from the remote computer and locating the structural location of the target content within the target document using the agent information; and

- retrieving the target content within the subsequent version of the target document.

32. (previously added) The method of claim 31, wherein identifying the target content comprises providing identifying start marker text and identifying end marker text that delimits the target content in the target document.
33. (previously added) The method of claim 32, wherein the start marker text and end marker text each comprise one of plain text, stylized text, and HTML syntax elements.
34. (previously added) The method of claim 32, wherein the start marker text and end marker text define target content separated by non-text web page elements.
35. (previously added) The method of claim 32, wherein the target content is contained in two different structures in the target source.